



United States Department of Agriculture

I 028919

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

ENQL 7-1 CY16
PERMANENT
Retire 05/21

Policy and Program
Development
Environmental and Risk
Analysis Services,
Unit 149

May 26, 2016

4700 River Road
Riverdale, MD 20737

Document Processing Desk [6(a)(2)]
Office of Pesticide Programs (7504P)
Ariel Rios Building
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460-0001

ATTN: Mr. Norman Spurling (7502P)

SUBJECT: FIFRA, Section 6(a)(2): Snow geese mortality event in Idaho potentially related to zinc phosphide poisoning

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS) is submitting an adverse effects incident report in an effort to comply with the reporting requirements of Section 6(a)(2) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act. This report is for the following pesticide active ingredient:

Active Ingredient: zinc phosphide
CAS No.: 1314-84-7
Incident Category: W-A
No. of Incidents: 1

On May 10, 2016, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services was alerted by the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (IDA) to a potential adverse incident involving zinc phosphide in the mortality of approximately 335 snow and Ross's geese in eastern Idaho in mid-March 2016. This event occurred in the same area where a large snow geese die-off occurred in March 2015. USDA APHIS is submitting an adverse incident report to EPA for the active ingredient zinc phosphide (CAS No. 1314-84-7, Incident category W-A), because USDA APHIS is a registrant of three zinc phosphide products (EPA Reg. Nos.: 56228-3, 56228-6, and 56228-14).

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game performed necropsy and toxicology tests on nine goose carcasses collected from the March 2016 die-off. Results showed the presence of phosphine gas in the GI tracts of the geese, indicating intoxication by some form of phosphide. The IDA has not determined the source of the phosphide, however zinc phosphide is the most likely cause. The exposure location, route of exposure, and the registered zinc phosphide product involved in the incident has not been determined by IDA.

Please direct any questions pertaining to this letter to Jeffery W. Jones at (301)851-4001 or e-mail Jeffery.W.Jones@aphis.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

David A. Bergsten

David A. Bergsten
Assistant Chief, Environmental and Risk Analysis Services

cc:

J. Jones, USDA, APHIS, WS, OS, Riverdale, MD (sent electronically)

J. Edwards, USDA, WS, NWRC Archives, Fort Collins, CO

P. Darrow, USDA, APHIS, WS, Pocatello Supply Depot, Pocatello, ID (sent electronically)